

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER
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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

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Area Code 415
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Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Population and Family Planning
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Mrs. Oettinger:

Thank you for your letter of January 22.

I was, of course, pleased to read your news of the improving trend in infant mortality rates, and would be very much interested to receive any available further documentation on them, particularly insofar as this could reinforce the implication of the positive role of improved maternal and child care services. The significance of family planning education for improving the conditions of life of medically underprivileged families must be undeniable, and I will indeed be very grateful for as much detailed information on your bureau's plans as you would care to send me.

Another subject that interests me a great deal is the formulation of prenatal care, what it actually consists of. Perhaps the process has never been well enough analyzed to answer my question, but I would be curious to learn just what are its most crucial elements from the standpoint of averting prematurity. If you know of any thoughtful analysis of this branch of social medicine, I would be indebted to you for reference to it.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

LT. J. P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE, DEDICATED TO RESEARCH IN MENTAL RETARDATION

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

HEREDITY

NEUROBIOLOGY

DEVELOPMENTAL MEDICINE

see Oettinger